The Department arranges visits of foreign travel agents, tour operators and media representatives to various tourist centres in Madhya Pradesh also, so as to familiarise them with the tourist attractions of the State.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation is organising conducted tours of Khajuraho temples, Kanha National Park and marble rocks of Jabalpur on a regular basis. These tours are available to both domestic and foreign tourists.

(c) and (d) Government of India have already in principle agreed to provide assistance for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Gwalior. Three Yatrikas at Amarkantak, Chitrakoot and Onkareshwar have already been completed and a fourth one at Maheshwar already sanctioned. A 24-bedded Forest Lodge at Bandhavgarh is under construction.

Smuggling on SCI vessels

1857. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is growing menace of smuggling on Shipping Corporation of India vessels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Bombay customs authorities have taken stringent measures against the erring crew members and the Shipping Corporation of India;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The number of smuggling incidents on the vessels of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. is on the decrease.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected.

(d) Strict instructions have been issued by the SCI to ships' personnel not to indulge/engage in smuggling activities and various notices concerning the same have been pasted in the accommodation of all the SCI vessels. Deterrent penalties have been imposed on personnel who are found to be involved in smuggling.

Appearance of Kalazar in Bihar

1858. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalajar has made its appearance in some districts of Bihar and as many as 10,000 people has been affected by it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the medicines required for this disease are to be imported and this is proving to be an impediment in tackling the problem;

(c) whether the Central Government would come forward to assist the State Government with medicines and also draw up a national plan for eradication of this disease; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes.

(b) The drug of choice for the treatment of Kala-azar is Sodium Antimony Gluconate which is indigenously manufactured and is available in the country. The cases who are resistant to Antimony Compound require Pentamidine which is not manufactured in the country. The number of such cases ranges between 7-8 per cent. 1800 ampoules of Pentamidine were made available to the Government of Bihar through the W.H.O. during 1986.

(c) and (d) Consequent to the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Kala-azar constituted by the Government of India, it has been proposed to take up anti-Kala-azar activities in Bihar and West Bengal as an extention of National Malaria Eradication Programme on 50:50 cost sharing basis.

The salient features of the proposed action plan is as under:

1. Establishment of a central component at NMEP Directorate for evolving programme strategy in detail, working out operational guidelines, training of personnel working in field, operational research activities supply of insecticides and drugs, monitoring and evaluation.

2. Establishment of State level and district level components for monitoring and implementing control strategy.

3. Surveillance for early detection and treatment of cases.

4. Vector control through insecticidal spraying and environmental management.

5. Health education.

Opening of new post offices in the country

1859. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open new post offices during the Seventh Plan; and

(b) if so, what is the number of post offices proposed to be opened in Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Seventh Five Year Plan provides for 6,000 new post offices. The fulfilment of this target, however, depends upon:

(i) Provision of adequate funds for the purpose by the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance.

(ii) Approval by Ministry of Finance for creation of the required number of posts in relaxation of the ban;

(iii) Submission by the postal circles of an adequate number of proposals which are in conformmity with the norms laid down for opening of post offices; and other factors.

Subject to these constraints the Department proposes to fulfill the Seventh Plan target.

Scholars sent abroad by Indian Council of Historical Research

1860. SHRI KAILASHPATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the list of the scholars sent abroad by the Indian Council of Historical Research during each of the last 3 years and the current year till date indicating their names, the proposed subject of research, the amount of foreign exchange and the Indian currency given to each scholar and what is the progress in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Qualifications for Director of Indian Council of Historical Research

1861. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the essential qualifications for the post of the Director, Indian Council of Historical Research *inter alia* mention "teaching experience of guiding research" and if so, whether it is a fact that the present Director who was eventually selected did not fulfil both these essential qualifications;

(b) whether in an affidavit which he is supposed to have been given in the court, he had declared "that he possessed both the above mentioned qualifications" and if so, whether Government have investigated the truth of this affidavit and if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(c) what is the number of years for which he had been teaching post-graduate classes and how many Ph.Ds had been produced under his guidance and if not,